

6 Miles Walk Route Information: The Rural Estate

6 miles – approximately 3 hours (inc. 30 mins for breaks) – moderate pace – facilities at Castor and Ferry Meadows Lakeside

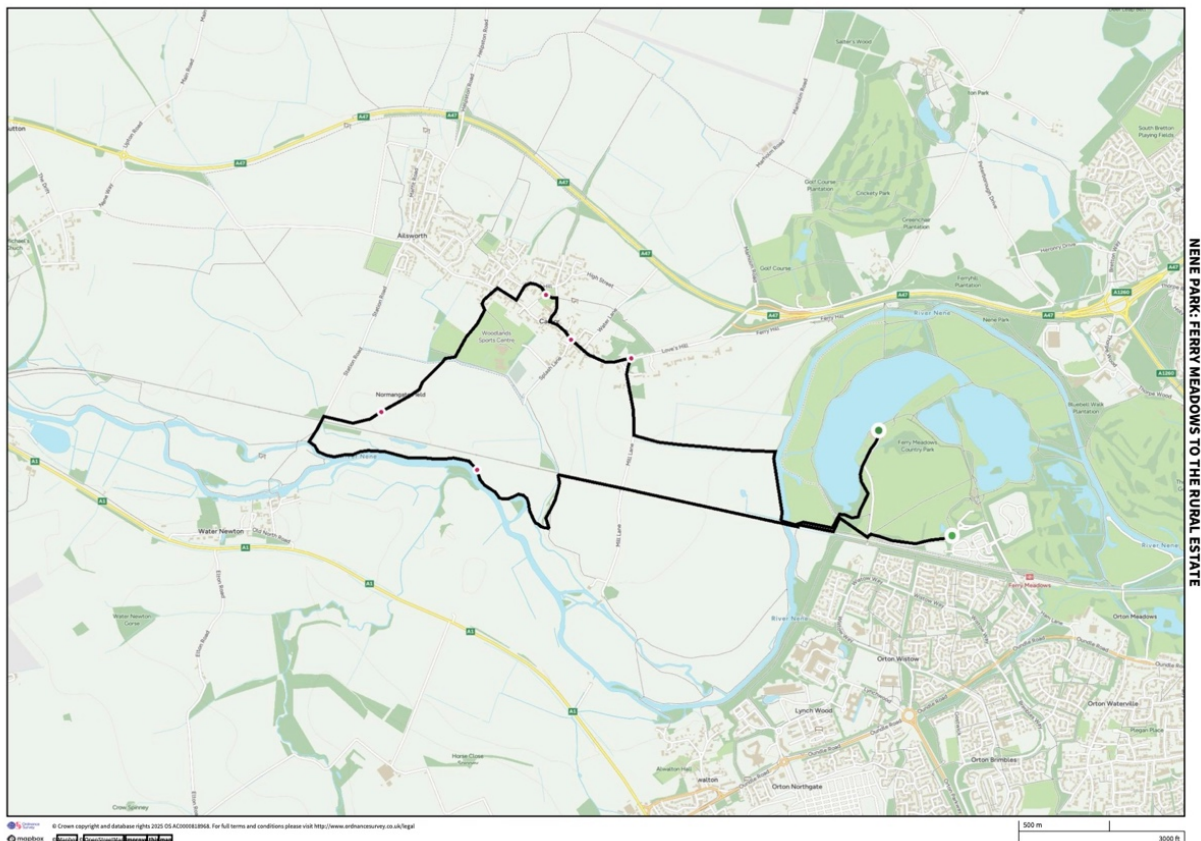
Based on Nene Park's Artis Trail, this walk into the Nene Valley countryside provides an introduction to the rich history and archaeology of the area from the Bronze age, the Roman period and up to World War II.

We set off from Ferry Meadows coach park towards The Rural Estate, following the Nene Valley Heritage Railway line and the River Nene. Through Normangate Field we cross the line of Ermine Street, an important military and trade route for the Romans. In Castor village we will see some interesting old stone and thatched buildings and have time to visit St Kyneburgha Church before setting off for our end point at Ferry Meadows Lakeside.

We will walk at a moderate pace; the route is fairly level going, mainly on grass tracks with some uneven sections; one short steep ascent; one stile; several gates; may be muddy or flooded in places during wet weather; we may encounter sheep and cattle.

We pass three pubs on Peterborough Road in Castor where refreshments and toilet facilities may be available, however given the length of this walk and the time we will be out, consider bringing a light lunch / substantial snack and a hot drink with you; café and toilet facilities at the end at Ferry Meadows Lakeside.

- 11:00 AM set off from Ferry Meadows coach park
- 12:15 PM short break for refreshment
- 12:40 PM break for snack / light picnic lunch
- 14:00 PM completed; picnic lunch or buy from Lakeside Kitchen & Bar



3.6 Miles Walk Route Information: Orton Mere

3.6 miles – approximately 2 hours – easy pace – facilities at Ferry Meadows Lakeside – bring binoculars

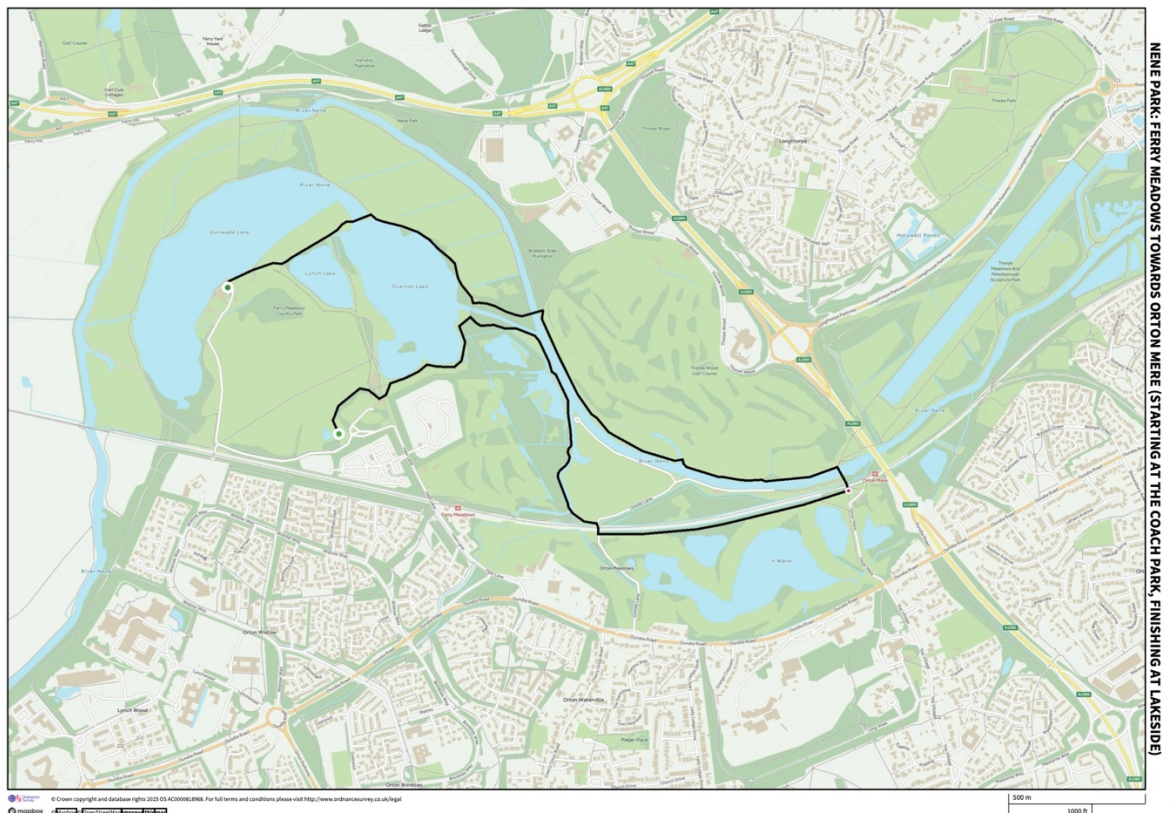
Based on Nene Park's Two Meres Walk, this walk takes us along a beautiful stretch of the River Nene with opportunities to see a wide variety of wildlife and discover something of the heritage of this part of the Nene Valley, including Orton Mere Station on the Nene Valley Heritage Railway line.

We set off from Ferry Meadows coach park in the direction of the Visitor Centre and then progress along the southern edge of Overton Lake towards Ham Mere Bird Sanctuary where there are several bird and wildlife hides. Walking south we may stop briefly at the viewing platform overlooking Goldie Meadow. We cross Goldie Bridge and the railway track to enter Orton Meadows. Following the railway line, we reach Orton Mere Station where we first cross over the track and then the River Nene, at the Sluice. This is our turning point back towards Ferry Meadows along (an unsurfaced section of) the Nene Way. Crossing the river at Bluebell Bridge we head via Willow Bridge to our end point at Ferry Meadows Lakeside.

We will walk at an easy pace; the route includes surfaced paths and grass tracks; one bridge with a steep gradient; no stiles or steps; the unsurfaced section of the Nene Way may be muddy after wet weather; we may encounter sheep and cattle.

Café and toilet facilities at the end at Ferry Meadows Lakeside (and in extremis at the Visitor Centre at the start).

- 11:00 AM set off from Ferry Meadows coach park
- 12:00 PM short break for refreshment
- 13:00 PM completed; picnic lunch or buy from Lakeside Kitchen & Bar



2.5 Miles Walk Route Information: Ferry Meadows Three Lakes Trail

2.5 miles – approximately 1.25 hours – relaxed pace – facilities at Visitor Centre hub – bring binoculars

Based on Nene Park's Three Lakes Trail, this circular walk around Ferry Meadows provides an introduction to the history, natural history and archaeology of the area. We explore settlements from Bronze Age to Iron age and Roman, and changes along the river when boat transport gave way to rail. We also see how land use changed in the 1970s from agriculture to mineral extraction followed by leisure and recreation.

We set off from Ferry Meadows Visitor Centre taking the footpath between Overton Lake and Lynch Lake where we see evidence of a Roman barn. As we progress alongside Heron Meadow and the edge of Gunwade Lake there are many wild birds and we may stop at the viewing platform for a closer look. Moving northwards across the meadow to follow the River Nene around the outermost perimeter of Ferry Meadows we see Milton Ferry Bridge, once a very pricey toll bridge. Heading south now we may experience the sight and smell of a steam engine on the Nene Valley Heritage Railway line as it passes under the bridge at Lynch Farm. From here we cross the road to follow the footpath alongside Oak Meadow to our end point back at Ferry Meadows Visitor Centre.

We will walk at a relaxed pace; the route is fairly level going with a mixture of surfaces, tarmac, limestone tracks, and grass tracks; it may be uneven and muddy when wet and some sections may flood; we may encounter sheep and cattle.

Café and toilet facilities at the end at Ferry Meadows Visitor Centre hub.

- 15:00 PM set off from Ferry Meadows Visitor Centre
- 16:15 PM completed
- 16:45 PM coach departs from Ferry Meadows coach park

